This new home had to resonate with the history of the Connecticut Valley and include a material palette that was environmentally friendly incorporating the challenging site on a large rock ledge.

An existing rambling cabin that had been expanded in unsuccessful ways over time was removed but the concrete foundation was saved. The form of the house was inspired by indigenous barns of the area, the mountain ranges that flank the Housatonic River Valley, and the nearby, historic West Cornwall Covered Bridge.

The living area, dining area and kitchen form the nucleus of a large breezeway through the house. The breezeway was strategically positioned to take advantage of the views to the valley, the uphill cross-ventilating breezes, and an existing boulder that becomes a rugged companion to the house and the views of the landscape. The exterior of the house is clad in Shou Sugi Ban siding, a charred cypress wood which offers a naturally rot-resistant and bug-resistant. The living area between the bedrooms allows owners and guests to merge & socialize in a lofted, open area that connects across the ledge to a garden and a valley terrace.

Jury comment: “The relentless horizontality of the Ledge House establishes a datum within an undulating landscape. Its austerity heightens the perception of the mountain ranges. The landscape is able to complete the experience of the interior by minimally detailing the apertures.”

Photography Credit: David Sundberg, ESTO
SALT House
Joeb Moore & Partners
 Architects

SALT house is a renovation located on an Eastern Connecticut coastal salt marsh. The project utilizes the footprint and perimeter framing of an existing structure that dates to the early 1990’s. By eliminating hip roofs and stripping the existing massing down to primitive geometric forms, the design transformation reorganizes the interior while maintaining open views to the coastal landscape beyond. Living spaces are oriented toward water views of the Long Island Sound. A central staircase anchors the primary spaces without disrupting views. Two double-height volumes provide access to a compact second level, reinterpreting and modernizing the ‘widow’s walk’ a common feature of neighboring historical homes.

The exterior is clad in western red cedar, which extends as lattice in front of windows, functioning to provide privacy and limit solar heat gain. The project additionally utilizes solar energy, in response to both passive and active design considerations.

Jury Comment: “What they made was sort of intriguing, quite the transformation and a level of rigor most entries did not have.”

Photography Credit: Joeb Moore & Partners
Slice House

Joeb Moore & Partners
Architects

Slice house is located on a site with glacial till and bedrock typical of Fairfield County. The new building is sited to fit between existing rock outcroppings and a pool and entertaining terrace bermed between the house and a high knoll at the east, and a stepped dining terrace perched above a rocky slope to the west looking towards a reservoir.

The house itself is organized into three wings: formal living, informal living and support spaces, anchored to the site by a masonry wall. The void space between these three wings utilizes light and reflection to connect vertically between each story of the house as well as laterally to each wing and to the landscape beyond. Apertures function as gaps or slices to reinforce the transition between the three wings of the house. Windows and openings are lined with reflective metal panels that bounce light and landscape views into the interior spaces, while indexing the surrounding temporal environment on the building facade.

Jury Comment: “The rigor in the plan and the discipline to stay on part is really strong, and it sounds interesting. The facade makes the building relentless in a good way.”

Photography Credit: David Sundberg, ESTO
Sackett Hill House
Deborah Berke Partners

Upon arrival at the pea gravel parking area, visitors walk on a stone path through an opening in a historic stone wall to reach the house, a subtle threshold that heightens awareness of the landscape. All the family's collaborative space is on one floor in two long volumes forming an "L", one side of which contains the public areas, the other side the more private spaces. The house includes many sustainable strategies including the use of four inches of continuous mineral wool insulation outboard of the exterior sheathing, and radiant heating and cooling to limit energy use throughout the year.

Jury Comment: "The simplicity of the "L" both at the scale of the site and interior are successful. Its axial nature is intentionally relentless."

Photography Credit: Catherine Tighe

Merit

Oenoke Lane Residence
Neil Hauck Architects LLC

Oenoke Lane was designed to accommodate the lifestyle of empty nesters looking to downsize. Shared gathering spaces are located in a central pavilion flanked on one side by a private element containing the owners' bedroom suite (with study, gym, and den below), and on the other side by guest bedroom suites elevated above a garage. The central component houses living, kitchen, and dining functions contained in a single space with a vaulted ceiling clad in vertical grain fir. Glass-enclosed links on each side of the central pavilion reinforce a clear visual distinction between the three pavilions.

Jury Comment: "Very much admire the commitment to a singular idea that is simultaneously timeless and of our time while deftly reflecting its New England heritage. The refinement is evident and visible on both the micro and macro levels."

Photography Credit: Tim Lee Photography
Three Bar House

Pirie Associates

Perched on a wooded coastal bluff, the Three Bar House emerged from the character of the site and the Owner's love of architecture and art. We characterized the long view as “peaceful” and the short view as “active” and oriented uses accordingly into three bars, oriented north-south, to take advantage of the site characteristics: western bar for active functions, center bar for a connecting landscape, and eastern bar for restful functions. This zoning also supported the Owners' desire for degrees of privacy within the home.

Jurors Comments: “The simplicity of the form allows the complexity of the landscape, near and far, to be captured between and within the buildings. The simple objectives produce a profound, and livable, solution.”

Photography Credit: Pirie Associates Staff

Rigorous Architectural Folly

Pool Cabana
Saniee Architects

“This is a very well done classically inspired garden structure. The proportions and thoughtful details are spot on.”

Photography Credit: David Sundberg, ESTO
Located in New Haven, CT, this 9,000-square-foot headquarters for Connecticut Innovations encompasses offices, meeting rooms, collaborative areas and open work areas. Exposed structure, HVAC, brickwork, metal panel ornamentation, and concrete floor staining are contextual with original architecture and provide an edgy industrial aesthetic.

“This design team has created a vibrant and attractive work environment.”

Photography Credit: Robert Benson
Photography
Wheelchair access to special collections was achieved. Glass doors were adapted to existing iron stanchions with modern hardware and tiles of matching texture and opacity. New lighting was installed using the old conduit system.

"Love the glass floors! It is good to see this space preserved and with such great care. It seems to keep its integrity. This is a thoughtfully done renovation."

Photography Credit: Amy Vischio

Historical Research and Preservation

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library
Newman Architects, PC

"The restoration of the Beinecke interior to its original state is an amazing feat. The images present a cohesive experience from detail to interior."

Photography Credit: Robert Benson Photography

Historical Research and Preservation

Mark Twain Suite
David Scott Parker Architects

"Extraordinary restoration, and the research and reconstruction are impressive."

Photography Credit: Robert Benson Photography
Design Awards- Architecture as Encompassing Art

Baker Hall Gate
Pirie Associates

When viewing the gate from afar, the Yale block “Y”, formed and re-formed, could be interpreted as an arcade, tree canopies, or a Gothic arch. As visitors approach, they observe that the large “Y” figures are actually composed of a seemingly infinite network of small “Y”s. Each small “Y” is unique, possessing a distinct set of dimensions. The large “Y”s represent society’s core values; the vision of America embodied by the Constitution. The constituent small “Y”s represent everyday citizens who exercise the daily mission of the law and who aid in its evolution.

Jury Comment: “I like the details; simplicity and it doesn’t compete with the things around it.”

Photography Credit: John Muggenborg
Beehive Bridge
Svigals+Partners
The bridge renovation was designed to rectify the poor pedestrian conditions by bringing light, life, and reconnection. The project took five years and was a massive collaboration between City Hall, DOT, multiple design firms, and a steering committee of local artists and business owners. The beehive theme runs throughout the City, appearing on its seal and lending its name to its baseball team, the New Britain Bees. The idea of drawing on the historic city motto and emblem in a bright and forward-looking way originated with and united the project stakeholders solidifying support. The new bridge provides an enhanced and memorable experience, while also offering an iconographic view for vehicular traffic on Route 72.

Jury Comment: “We need more work tackling this kind of problem, and the metaphor is intriguing and conjures many ideas for structure, material, and space.”
Photography Credit: Olson Photography, LLC, Land Sea Air Media, LLC

St. Rose of Lima
Roman Catholic Church Bell Garden
Newman Architects, PC
This environment memorializes a community’s gathering to mourn yet sustain hope despite tragedy. It enriches a renovation honoring the congregation’s 160th anniversary, accommodating gifts and increased attendance following the church’s hosting of the community memorial for the Sandy Hook shooting. The Peace Garden uses long-lasting materials frugally and incorporates sustainable features such as repurposed late-19th-century bronze bells, locally sourced materials (within 500 miles): Concrete, brick, bluestone and hardy native/adaptive plantings without irrigation. The resulting Peace Garden reaches out to community, transitions from street to campus, and forms intimate spaces.

Jury Comment: “This thoughtful memorial resonates through its symbolism and intertwining rooms that balance enclosure/protection and openness which invites participation.”
Photography Credit: Robert Benson Photography
609 Main

Pickard Chilton

609 Main at Texas is a LEED-CS Platinum certified, high-performance 48-story, 1.85 million gsf Class A tower in Houston. An expansive landscaped roof garden atop the 13-level podium conceals parking for 1700 cars.

It incorporates superior technology defining it as a next-generation office tower, offering tenants greater comfort, efficiency and productivity. The high-performance enclosure maximizes daylight while reducing solar heat gain. With walls of 10-foot, floor-to-ceiling glass with stainless steel accents, near column-free floorplates accommodate flexible workspaces and greater collaborative areas. A two-story penthouse features an electrochromic glass skylight.

The double-height “hotel-style” lobby features a café, a conference facility, retail space, and a fitness center. Natural stone and wood, stainless steel accents, and interior landscaping attest to the lobby’s quality. A 28-foot tall greenwall and water feature greet visitors while serving as passive cooling elements.

609 Main captures and stores rain in a cistern for future use. In addition to energy-efficient lighting and harmonic-mitigating transformers, heat sensors adjust room temperature for the number of occupants. Efficient building systems include “smart” elevators and a sophisticated “Dual Path” underfloor HVAC system that allows for individual control and constant air purification.

“A glorious prism simultaneously timeless and exuberantly modern. As the tall building meets the ground it is articulated through material and form (a shaved corner) that creates a sense of inhabitation without changing the language of the building. It is unabashedly tall but not brutal.”

Photography Credit: Aker Imaging, and Alan
Adjacent to Duke's main entry to its west campus and the undergraduate and graduate admissions centers, the Karsh Alumni and Visitors Center welcomes visitors as it celebrates Duke's storied past and promising future.

The complex of four buildings was conceived as a pedestrian village within woodland, organized around a central court and wood cloister. This maintains Duke's identity as a "University in the forest," as it concentrates built development to optimize the surrounding woods to be a sustainable and continuous matrix of flora and fauna.

Duke stone (quarried locally) is the exterior base for the large Events Pavilion with precast stone above, as seen on Duke's campus. The exterior masonry wings contrast with the Events Pavilion's central steel and glass pavilion; this juxtaposition is reversed in the attached Meeting Pavilion, with glass wings off a solid center. The surrounding terraces of bluestone at the entry and arcades are flush with interior floors for accessibility.

Next door, the Forlines House, is an historic preservation, restored for public meetings and offices.

The project meets Duke's proprietary green standards commensurate with LEED Silver.

Jury comment: "The reinterpretation of Gothic Revival as a timber building is intriguing. It speaks to both the first metaphor and the campus architecture."

Photography Credit: Peter Aaron
The 30,000 SF McLeod Tyler Wellness Center is a beacon for health and wellness situated in the center of campus. The design celebrates the surrounding landscape while incorporating natural stone and custom variations of the campus’s brick vernacular pattern to pay homage to the college’s traditions. Floor-to-ceiling windows in public spaces provide expansive views of nature and allow abundant daylight to enter the spaces. Biophilic elements are incorporated throughout the interior with the use of natural colors, fabrics, stone, wood, and a large water feature along the main wall in the lobby.

The first floor houses the Student Health Center; multi-purpose spaces; staff offices; and meditation rooms. The second floor houses the Counseling Center, as well as meditation alcoves, conference rooms, and a shared break room with a food preparation area and teaching kitchen. Through this mix of private and public spaces, the search for healing and wellness is not seen only as an isolated endeavor but as a shared, communal experience.

The project achieved LEED Gold certification.

*Jury comment: “Very nicely done. a well-rounded design from exterior to interior.”*

*Photography Credit: David Sundberg, ESTO*
Yale Science Building  
**Pelli Clarke Pelli**

Yale University’s Science Building is a 282,500 SF complex that houses Molecular Cellular Developmental Biology, Plant Biology, and Atomic Molecular Optical Physics with associated supporting core facilities. By combining new construction, existing space unified science campus that revitalizes Yale’s Science Hill by connecting the various science departments physically and experientially.

It refocuses, re-landscapes and restores Science Hill's open spaces for pedestrian use. The new, anemometrically placed dining pavilion serves to mitigate the wind that previously made the campus courtyard uninhabitable.

It is sustainably planned, utilizing chilled beams to reduce the project EUI to 50% below Yale’s lab average and 25% lower than the initial EUI goal. Innovative, prefabricated modular HVAC duct and piping racks were designed and installed in the lab module ceilings to speed construction time, reduce waste and provide greater flexibility for future renovations and repairs. The Yale Science Building is seeking LEED Gold Certification.

**Jury comment:** “While a big building, the images demonstrate an intimacy in the interior and the adjoining landscape spaces. It appears that the project creates the environment for not only study and research but socialization.”

**Photography Credit:** Jeff Goldberg, ESTO

---

165 Capitol Avenue

**Amenta Emma Architects**

Converting Connecticut’s State Office Building, the new home for Constitutional Offices, into a vibrant, modern 21st-century collaborative workplace, saves a significant building and plays a pivotal role in an urban plan that stitches historic downtown district assets to a one-mile chain of parks, plazas and the renewed Connecticut River waterfront. Designers utilized multiple strategies to return this c. 1931 (Smith & Bassette) building to its grand place in Hartford’s Capitol District.

**Jury comment:** “Good reuse and renovation of major building - uplifting Government service, and a thoughtfully executed renovation.”
2+U

Pickard Chilton

2+U creates a space for the community in the heart of downtown Seattle. The space beneath the elevated tower creates a high forest-like canopy above 24,000 square feet of publicly accessible open space that serves the entire neighborhood. Envisioned as first-of-its-kind Urban Village, this multi-level pedestrian experience traverses a 30-foot grade change within a network of ramps, steps, and terraces that recall the passages at nearby Pike Place Market. Publicly accessible elevators and ramps fit seamlessly within the city’s system of hill-climb assists, to help people of all abilities.

Targeting LEED-CS Platinum, the 530-foot, 1 million GSF Class-A office tower comprises a 19-story podium and 38-story tower.

Jury comment: “I applaud the radical opening up of the ground planes, the section describes the success of the building at the ground. The “urban village” is a public space that stitches the city fabric together.”

Photography Credit: Benjamin Benschneider, and Lean Goat Photography
Barack H. Obama Magnet University School

Pickard Chilton
JCJ Architecture

Located on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), the Barack H. Obama Magnet University School is a New Haven Public School serving 490 pre-K through fourth-grade students. It partners with SCSU’s School of Education to create a new “laboratory school” for graduate students preparing to be teachers. The school meets the standards for “High Performance Schools in Connecticut” and incorporates high performance strategies such as solar panels, a planted green roof, radiant floor heating, and chilled beams.

Jury comment: “The school has good light and openness on the interior making for a pleasant learning environment.”

Photography Credit: Pickard Chilton

Lafayette Hall at Housatonic Community College

Amenta Emma Architects

With a mission to provide educational opportunities to a diverse community, Housatonic Community College (HCC) is prominently located in downtown Bridgeport, CT on the site (and in the structure) of a former shopping mall. A 48,000-sf addition to the main campus building, which was converted to HCC in the mid-
1990s, adds critical program areas and radically changes HCC's relationship to its urban context. No longer set back from the street by a vast concrete plaza structures, the main entry and architectural face of HCC boldly reaches out to the City.

Jury comment: “The section is essential to the design, describing the movement between programs and from interior to exterior. The massing of the building contributes to the campus making a destination, a place, from a former shopping mall.”

Photography Credit: Robert Benson Photography

Sacred Heart University, Bobby Valentine Health & Recreation Center
The SLAM Collaborative

The Health and Recreation Center is a social and fitness “hub” serving student recreation, Club Sports, Intramurals, and Fitness programs. The interior is flooded with daylight and offers panoramic views outward, creating an uplifting fitness experience that encourages participation. Careful planning of the floor areas allows the 3rd floor to be a mezzanine, so that all floor levels can be visually opened to each other as 2-story atria.

Jury comment: “The dynamic shape expresses motion. It seems well suited to its location within the playing fields. I’d like to work out there!”

Photography Credit: Robert Benson Photography
Bedford Square
Centerbrook Architects and Planners

“A thoughtful and highly sympathetic renovation and re-adaption. And it's a multi piece development, and when you walk along the sidewalk, it's just a remarkable improvement and investment. Westport was lucky to have selected this architect.”

Photography Credit: Nathaniel Riley

The Pavilion at Grace Church
Centerbrook Architects and Planners

“This project demonstrates positive impact for the community in the images provided. The inversion of lighting and structure is an unexpected detail.”

Photography Credit: Jeff Goldberg, ESTO

The Westport Library
HMA2 Architects

“Having lived in Westport I know that there is no public forum available like this one and is a much-needed resource for Westport's vibrant community. It's a great way to adapt to our changing times.”

Photography Credit: Aida Sulova
An international competition, sponsored by HUD, to by Superstorm Sandy asking for a comprehensive approach addressing climate change and flooding caused by rainfall and storm surge and creating a model for living and working along the coastline.

The resulting masterplan allowed the state to leverage additional funding for design of a city-wide Resilient Bridgeport Strategy and construction of pilot projects. Developed with extensive community consultation, it provides a neighborhood-scale framework for adapting Bridgeport’s South End and Black Rock Harbor to meet the critical challenges of climate change and sea level rise, and the effects of storms on surge and flooding in the city, through innovative thinking about the form of its streets, public spaces, infrastructure networks, and architecture. Perimeter surge protection, dry egress, green and grey stormwater infrastructure, and utility micro-grids are integrated through a comprehensive urban design framework, with strategies for economic development, urban connectivity, and transit. Through extensive engagement with state and municipal agencies, institutions, nonprofits, business owners, residents and other stakeholders, Resilient Bridgeport establishes a vision for a Bridgeport that is vibrant, safe, and flexible with new opportunities for development and recreation, as well as an attractive, vivid new blue-green public realm.

“Everybody can relate to it and I think it’s more meaningful. I thought it was really comprehensive and well done, study addressed a lot of really interesting issues. They show evidence that they were community bases, and I think this was a good example of that.”

Photography Credit Yale Urban Design Workshop and Waggonner and Ball Architecture / Environment
Wesleyan Art Gallery

Newman Architects, PC

Designed for a museum of works on paper to be sited in a narrow rectilinear space between two large brick and stone early twentieth century academic buildings.

Observing the lines of its site, this 3,588 SF building is a simple rectilinear box within which a smaller box contains a modest collection of three galleries of different sizes, their proportions guided by the golden mean, and a workroom. The galleries allow for different exhibit approaches, for more than one exhibition to be hung or viewed simultaneously, and for the spaces to be used for instruction as well. The outer box is a screen of perforated painted aluminum plates assembled to form a single continuous faceted and folded envelope, refracting, reflecting, transmitting, veiling, and revealing.

The roof is planted, providing insulation and a permeable surface to mitigate stormwater flows. The perforated metal exterior envelope is a screen, protecting the inner exterior wall envelope and the interior from degradation due to sun and precipitation.

Jury Comment: “This is a jewel set between two Georgian stalwarts. Very powerful and engaging. The aluminum origami delights the eye and draws one in.”

Photography and rendering credits: Newman Architects